Expansion of telecom network and funds earmarked for

912. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to implement a massive plan for the expansion of Telecommunication network in the country;

(b) if so, the amount earmarked therefor;

(c) the amount proposed to be sent under that massive plan;

(d) whether the specific schemes drawn up for Orissa are also under that plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Objective of Eighth Five Year Plan envisaged addition of 75 lakh new telephone connections in the country. However, National Telecom Policy 1994 envisage providing telephone connection practically on demand by 1.4.97. The requirement of funds to meet the objectives of 8th Five Year Plan of the Department is Rs. 40555 crores. The additional investment to the tune of approximately Rs. 23000/- crores is required to meet the objectives paid down in National Telecom Policy 1994 which is envisaged to come partly from Private Sector and partly from Department of Telecommunication However, during the current financial year in case adequate funds are available for purchase of equipments on leasing basis targets 14 lakhs may be revised to 30 lakhs.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. During 8th Five Year Plan it is proposed to add 61000 lines of net switching capacity and 48900 telephone connections in Orissa Telecom Circle and under National Telecom Policy 1994 telephone will be made available practically on demand in whole of Orissa State by 1.4.1997.

अंतरर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर की दूरसंचार सेवाएं उपलब्ध कराने का कार्यक्रम

913. **श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल :**
श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों के गांवों और शहरी क्षेत्रों में उचित दरों पर अंतरर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर की दूरसंचार सेवाएं उपलब्ध कराने का कोई कार्यक्रम है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और क्या उक्त दूरसंचार सेवाओं को शुरू करने के लिए कोई समय-सीमा निर्धारित की है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसे कब शुरू कर दिया जाएगा और आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्त तक कितने गांवों और नगरों में यह सेवाएं शुरू करा दी जाएंगी तथा यह सेवाएं किन दरों पर होंगी ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) जी हां।

(ख) राष्ट्रीय दूरसंचार नीति 1994 के अनुसार आठवीं योजना के संशोधित उद्देश्यों की निम्नलिखित परिकल्पना की गई है :

1. 1997 तक मांग पर टेलीफोन उपलब्ध कराना।

2. सभी गांवों को 1997 तक टेलीफोन सुविधा उपलब्ध कराना ।

3. शहरी क्षेत्रों में 1997 तक प्रति 500 व्यक्तियों के लिए एक सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन प्रदान करना ।

4. मूल्य वर्द्धित सेवाओं को शुरुआत ।

(ग) उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों समेत समूचे देश में उपरोक्त कार्यक्रम चरणबद्ध तरीके से क्रियान्वित किया जा रहा है और

आठवीं योजना के अंत तक उद्देश्यों के पूरा होने की संभावना है ।

इन दूर दराज एवं पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तरीय सेवा प्रदान करने हेतु डिजिटल टी ए एक्स पारेषण प्रणालियों तथा उपग्रह भू-केन्द्रों की भी योजना बनाई जा रही है इसके लिए अभी वर्तमान शुल्क ढांचे में किसी विशेष परिवर्तन का पूर्वानुमान नहीं है ।

Service tax on telephones

914. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has decided to pass on the burden of service tax, levied under the budget on Telephone Companies| Corporations, to the consumers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for passing over the entire burden to consumers and what was the intention of Government as to source of recovery of this tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The service Tax is recoverable from the subscribers of Telephone Connection as per Finance Act, 1994 and rules made there-under.

Discussions with the organisations interested in investing in telecom network

915. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated discussions with representatives of 19 organisations who had taken interest in investing in telecom network;

(b) if so, what were the main points discussed;

(c) whether the suggestions made by the representatives have been considered so that telecom policy announced by Government is implemented immediately; and

(d) if so, whether all the formalities in this regard have been finally settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A meeting with the industry representatives to ascertain their views was held on 12th June, 1994.

(c) and (d) The views expressed were taken as a part of input for framing the guidelines for implementation of the Telecom Policy.

Telephone advisory committee (T.A.G.) for GOA

916. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for not making Goa Telephone Advisory Committee (T.A.C.) functional, despite orders from Director-General, Telecom that the term of 2 years of this T.A.C. will commence from 1st May, 1994;

(b) what are the reasons that facilities for which these members are entitled have not yet been provided;

(c) whether in view of delay of 3 months for this Committee to function, the term of this Committee will be extended for 2 years from the date of its first meeting; and

(d) if so, by when the first meeting is proposed to be held;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the Telephone Advisory Committee for Goa constituted on 29.2.1994 could not become functional for want of acceptance letters from some of the Members nominated.

(b) Facilities have already been provided to 10 Members and to the